

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

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Tallahassee, Friday, August 18, 1905.

Volusia county is to have a local option election September 27.

The Pensacola News thinks "now is a mighty good time for everybody to stay at home."

The types last week made us use "mulched" for "malted." Maybe the latter isn't a good word, but it said what we meant.

The Tavares Herald is one of the many State papers which believe that "the increase in the State assessment is due to the 'business administration' of Governor W. S. Jennings and for which Governor Broward is not responsible."

Pensacola's municipal tax rate for 1905 is eleven mills, and the city board of equalization proposes to change the basis of valuation from 70 to 100 per cent, which will make the rate only about 7 or 8 mills. That is what should be done throughout the entire State.

No qualified voter in Tallahassee should fail to cast his vote in the school sub-district election which the school board has called for Monday, September 4th. And they should be sure to vote for the creation of such district, for the rate of taxation therein and for the election of three trustees therefor.

Editor Appleyard, of the Lake City Index, insists that Attorney-General Ellis was "smiled at" for asking the supreme court to construe the Buckman college law, but he now asserts that "the Governor requested the Attorney-General to do so." The "smile" must therefore have been directed at the Governor.

Here is the way the Milton Index humorist discusses the mosquito theory: "Golly! Just read what Dr. Porter says about our night-blooming humming bird: 'A single female mosquito will lay a sufficient number of eggs in a water pitcher in an unused bedroom to not only fill the house with her offspring but supply the neighbors within the radius of the square.' If that's so how can we ever expect to get rid of the terrible animal? If a pitcher will breed a houseful what will a ten mile swamp do? If a single mosquito can do all that how much worse would it be if she went off and got married! Oh laws-mercy, them terrible 'skeeters!'"

Virginia has just enough Republicans to keep the Democrats straight, and to make them understand that they must behave themselves or step down and out. The Richmond News-Leader says: "We cordially welcome the indications that the Republicans are forming an organization which will force the Democrats to put up their best men, to make their party represent high, clean and progressive purposes and to win elections by the power of those principles and the strength with which they are presented rather than by cold-blooded, degrading and flagrant tricks with ballot boxes."—Jacksonville Metropolis.

Here in Florida a similar condition appears to be very badly needed. There are too many Democrats. "A real, active party in opposition would operate most effectively to purge the public service and renew our faith in Democratic principles."

NORTHERN RACE PREJUDICE.

Referring to discussions of the negro question in Northern newspapers, the Houston Post asserts that "nine-tenths of the friendship professed for the negro in the North is merest pretense. All of it is strictly political. Race riots rarely occur in the South. Law-abiding negroes are never assaulted because their skins are black or yellow. An honest and industrious negro is respected and kindly treated by Southern people. An honest and industrious negro is not respected or kindly treated by many Northern people. A negro in the North frequently finds labor as hazardous as stealing. One of the most dangerous phases of the negro problem is the steadily increasing drift of the blacks to the North, where they are not wanted. The Northern race riots are merely symptoms. The real trouble is yet to come. In the meantime, sensible Northern people and newspapers would do well to cease their lectures to the South, and consider their own race troubles. It is doubtful if they do nearly so well as the South has done, and is doing."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The people of this city have noted the vigilance with which the municipal authorities have thus far performed their duties with reference to the public health, and appreciate the difficulties under which they have labored, not the least of which is the indifference of many to the admonitions on instructions of health officers, as to the proper means and method of sanitation, and the obstinacy of others, who appear to enjoy defeating the efforts of the health officials, and evading the requirements of the law.

The city health officers are, of course, restricted to the enforcement of the municipal ordinances on the subject, and their efforts are governed by the provisions of those laws; but the fact should not be overlooked or forgotten that behind the authority of the municipal officials lies the power of the State defined in the statutes enacted by the Legislature, and fortified by the command of the entire body of official authority.

At the last session of the Legislature the health laws were revised and a new statute, especially applying to the subject of nuisances injurious to health, was enacted: the violation of which involve penalties which no law abiding citizen should willingly incur. For the information of our readers we reproduce this very important law and earnestly commend to all who read it the duty of immediate and cheerful compliance with its provisions.

To evade the requirements of a city ordinance will not be very easy, with the vigilance of the city health officer behind it; but to encounter the penalties for violations of the statute in question is a matter a great deal more serious.

THE TAMPA FAIR.

The refusal of many of the State newspapers to give without compensation the use of their columns to advertise the fair to be held at Tampa this year has been met by the officials of the enterprise with a sort of sullen silence.

No one desires the fair to prove a failure; no one wishes it anything but success. But the Florida press is quite right in declining to contribute to that success large quantities of valuable space without payment, when, with its prospects, and the benefit of a large appropriation of public money, the management is abundantly able to pay.

The Starke Telegraph doubtless voices the prevailing sentiment in newspaper circles when it remarks that "if the State papers continue to withhold free advertising from the Tampa fair, and the directors of the project persist in their determination to spend no money advertising, they will likely find out that money alone will not make the fair a success. It takes publicity to bring success to such enterprises."

And the Manatee Record makes the following vigorous comment:

There don't seem to be much doing in the way of advertising the State fair. The newspaper boys have decided that they are tired of "everything going out and nothing coming in," as the fair officers want everything to come in and nothing to go out, the boys have called a halt and are waiting to hear something drop.

DEATH OF MAJOR DURKEE.

The people of Florida will sincerely regret the death, at Stony Point, N. Y., on Friday last, of Major Joseph H. Durkee, who for many years has been a prominent figure in the contemporary history of the State.

A staunch Republican, Major Durkee was never mixed up in the "carpet-bag politics" of the ante-Democratic era, and has always commanded the sincere respect of all classes of the population.

Referring to his career as a valuable citizen the Jacksonville Metropolis aptly says:

Major Durkee was a gallant soldier in the civil war, and served his country well, fighting loyally for the preservation of the Union. Since the war and until his death his closest friends have been among those whose sympathies were with the South.

After the great fire of May 3, 1901, Major Durkee did much relief work, and his sympathies went out to the hundreds of unfortunates. He was one of the greatest losers, financially by the visitation, but he braved it well and was among the first to begin the rebuilding of the "New Jacksonville."

Among the responsible positions held by Major Durkee was State Senator and Representative of Duval county, member of the Board of Public Works of Jacksonville, United States marshal, member of the city Board of Health, receiver of the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroad and President of the Seminole Club, a social organization.

The first issue of the Wildwood News, by G. W. Adams, is welcomed to our exchange table. It is a neat, all-home-printed sheet, and a credit to its editor and to its town.

THE SERVANT QUESTION.

The increasing difficulty of procuring competent domestic servants has long been a most exasperating problem with all, or nearly all southern housekeepers. The old generation of home servants is rapidly passing away, and the younger negroes are far from filling their places acceptably. Notwithstanding the migratory movement of negroes of both sexes from the country to the town; which for several years has been going on all over the South, families in the towns and cities find it more and more difficult every year to procure satisfactory employees for house service. As the Monticello News pathetically says: "As time passes and the old 'aunties' die, and the young, haughty, dusky daughters of freedom come to the fore, we learn that, among other short crops, we are growing no cooks. A big crop of bedizened, simpering females is produced, having no microscopic trace of virtue, and who evidently do not need to toil. What shall we do with them, and how shall we evolve suitable house servants and cooks from their ranks?"

The situation has become so serious in Jacksonville that a formal organization has been created having for its purpose the importation of German women to "fill the long-felt want."

The Palatka News treats this movement in rather jocose style, as follows:

A servant girl trust has been organized in Jacksonville under the name of the Florida Help Supply Company. It is the purpose of the company to have an agent in Germany to secure nice, juicy German girls and ship them in clusters to Jacksonville to take the place of the nigger cooks and house girls who now hold the balance of power in the homes of that town. The new company is composed of some prominent men and church members, men whose names are calculated to inspire confidence in the German maiden's breast.

Seriously speaking, however, upon a matter that is very seriously affecting not only the comfort but the health of the people, this movement promises benefits which will be welcomed by every housekeeper in Florida, and its inauguration should arrest the attention of the race from whence the supply of household servants is now drawn. It promises to be a much more serious thing for them than the housekeepers' troubles with incompetent servants have ever been. Those who now inadequately furnish the supply of cooks, housemaids, etc., may find their occupation and incomes menaced, and it behooves them to mend their ways and endeavor to command the confidence and approbation of employers before it is too late; for if the "Jacksonville plan" succeeds, every city and town in Florida will adopt it.

NO MYSTERY.

Why some newspapers have an editorial page is a mystery. They never express an opinion nor have an original editorial thereon, but week after week have it filled with vile stuff sent out from Washington, especially prepared for editors who can't write editorials.

The reason some never express an opinion is often because they lack confidence in themselves and think they can get an expression from someone else that is much ahead of what they have in stock. Then some fellows are so busy fishing they don't have time to do anything but use the scissors.—Gainesville Sun.

Now, brethren, let us be more charitable. Truly, it is disappointing to look into some of our State exchanges and find the editorial columns filled with "machine" items, prepared for the "patent inside," or with notices of applications for license to sell liquors, or with stolen paragraphs which you have already seen in other newspapers; but we must remember that the editors who thus misuse their editorial space are not always to be blamed, but often to be pitied.

They may be so overwhelmed with other necessary duties—you know how it is yourself—that they have no time to devote to the occupation of being a real editor; their space may be so crowded with "ads" that they can find no room for editorials; they may so admire the editorial work of their contemporaries that they cannot resist the temptation to use it often without giving credit, or they may conclude that most of their readers—outside of the profession—will accept the contents of their editorial columns without questioning the source.

We heartily commend the following excellent and thoughtful paragraph from the Quincy Herald and Era:

The world views with contempt the common thief whose depredations are confined to single individuals, and the confidence man who selects his victim and proceeds to rob him with neatness and dispatch, but this class of men are honest in comparison with him who taking advantage of official position lines his pockets with money filched from the public at large. Hanging should be an honorable death for such creatures.

BROWARD UNDER FIRE.

In the matter of a too hasty appointment of a county judge for Marion county, Governor Broward has been finding out what others think of him. It is, indeed, unfortunate that so high an official should incur criticism, but then, that is one of the duties, as well one of the prerogatives, of an independent press.

Governor Broward, in an interview published in a Jacksonville paper, gives his side of the controversy as follows:

In the first place, I appointed the man who had the best recommendations for the position. There were twelve applicants for the position, and Mr. Bell seemed to have the best recommendations. I do not know Mr. Bell personally, but he was born in Marion county, is a reputable lawyer, appears to be a gentleman of the highest standing in his profession and among his people.

So far as the executive committee is concerned, the committee was called together and I was informed by wire that there was not a quorum present. They stated in the telegram that they would make another effort to meet next Thursday. I did not know whether or not they would fail to meet next Thursday, and, as I wanted to get off for a few days, I appointed the man who had the best recommendations for the place. I acted because I thought that the office was of such importance that it ought to be filled as soon as practical, at least.

To hasten so important an appointment, at the risk of criticism for ignoring the rights of the party authorities, on the ground that he wished to leave the State for his vacation, may strike the average citizen as smacking rather too strongly of the methods of his immediate predecessor, who became infamous for his habit of ignoring party obligations.

Some of the newspapers are exceedingly outspoken on the subject, as witness the following excerpts:

The Governor has not only broken party precedents, but he has broken faith with his friends!

If there be one thing more than another that ought to stand forth resplendent in human nature, it is that which was exemplified by Damon and Pythias.

The fidelity of friendship should be as pure as glittering gold, as sound and unswerving as granite and as true and unyielding as the needle is to the pole.

But it takes little incidents like that of last Saturday to reveal the inexplicable riddle so often manifest that a "man's best friend is often his worst enemy."

Mr. John T. Lewis and his friends were Governor Broward's best friends in this county in the gubernatorial primary election. They worked for him with a faith that was admirable, if not heroic. At their own expense they distributed his literature and went from place to place singing his praises and arousing enthusiasm for him.

Mr. Lewis was a candidate for the office of county judge made vacant by the death of the lamented Gen. Bullock. He had letters and telegrams in his pocket from Gov. Broward and Mr. Stockton and also oral statements from friends who had seen Gov. Broward in person, saying that the Governor was anxious to appoint him to the place and would do so if he secured the endorsement of the Democratic Executive Committee, and that he would not make an appointment until the committee made an endorsement.

Owing to the tremendously heavy rains for the period of two days it was impossible for the full committee to meet last Saturday, so an adjournment was taken until yesterday.

In the meanwhile, without hearing from the committee, at least not officially, Gov. Broward made his appointment, regardless of the action of said committee, thus not only breaking faith with his friends, but also breaking faith with his party.

He was and is still the subject of severe criticism, and especially among those who warmly supported him and enthusiastically sung his praises in the last election.—Ocala Banner.

Governor Broward seems to have adopted the Jennings method in making appointments to offices where vacancies occur. The death of General Robert Bullock, left a vacancy in the office of county judge in Marion county. The county democratic executive committee had been called to recommend a candidate for the office, but the Governor took the matter off the hands of the people of that county and appointed a man of his own choosing. If the Governor will look up the democratic platform of 1900, which though quite aged, is the only platform by the representatives of the people, he will find that his action is not in keeping with that document.—Bradentown Journal.

In the matter of appointing a county judge for Marion county Governor Broward has struck his first snag, and has succeeded in bringing down the wrath of Editor Frank Harris. It is to be hoped that the Governor will not continue the same policy throughout his administration, for, if he does, his public career will come to an end with the closing of his present term of office.—West Palm Beach Sun.

The intense itching characteristic of salt rheum and eczema is instantly allayed by applying Chamberlain's Salve. As a cure for skin diseases this salve is unequalled. For sale by all druggists.

Mr. J. Y. Price, formerly a well-known contractor here, who has been away for several years, has returned with his family to reside permanently.

A GRAND PROPOSITION

Twenty-Five Dollars in Cash Easily and Quickly Earned.

In order to bring out the ideas of our customers as to "Why our business is a success," we have decided to pay Twenty-five dollars in cash, to the person writing the best Article on this subject.

The contest will be conducted and governed by the following rules:

Use as many, or as few words as you like.

Bring in your Article as clearly and as forcefully as possible. What part of our Success is attributable to each line of merchandise carried in our stock, for illustration—

To what extent is our Line of Dry Goods responsible for this success?

What has our Line of Ladies, Mens and Children's Shoes contributed to this success?

What has our Line of Mens, Youths' and Boys' Clothing to do with our success?

What has our Spot Cash System of Doing Business added to our success?

What has our method of Giving Every Customer Full Value for his money, added to our success?

How much has our method of Selling Only Reliable Goods advanced our business?

To what extent has our Courtesy and Promptness in Serving our Customers been responsible for this success?

How can we further improve our method of doing business that would be beneficial to ourselves and our customers?

Write only on one side of your page and as plainly as possible. Fill out the blank below, and send in with your Article.

Each paper received will be numbered consecutively from one up, and entered in a book kept by us for this purpose, stating the number of the paper and the name of the person sending in the same.

Have your Article reach us not later than September 15th.

The Articles will be delivered to the Judges on the 16th of September, and will be known to them only by their number, as we shall take the precaution to keep the names of the writers from the Judges. Said Judges will consist of three distinguished gentlemen, who will decide as to who is entitled to the Twenty-five dollar cash prize; and when so decided, we will make our check for this amount to the person so decided by said Judges to be entitled to the same.

For the benefit of our customers wishing to compete for our Twenty-five-Dollar Cash Prize, to be paid to the person (gentleman or lady) writing the best article on "Why our Business Is a Success," we give the following information:

We began our business in Tallahassee, Florida, on the 8th day of February, 1902; and, from the beginning, adopted the following rules:

Buying and Selling for Cash; Buying and Selling only Reliable Merchandise;

Treating our Customers with all the Courtesy possible;

Giving all customers as Prompt Attention as possible;

Giving every customer the Greatest Possible Value (believing that every one is entitled to the full value of his money).

Duval Bros. - Tallahassee, Fla.

[Cut this out and send it with your article.]

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DUVAL BROS.: Herewith find my article in competition for your \$25 Prize.

No. Fla.

FLORIDA'S EXPERIMENT STATION.

The officials of the United States Department of Agriculture have intimated their desire that the office of Director of the Experiment Station should be filled by some competent person, not otherwise connected officially with the State Agricultural College, or, as it is henceforth to be known, the University of Florida.

Whether this request is founded upon the terms of the statute under which the station is sustained, or is the result of experiences, in Florida or elsewhere, of the combination of the office of director with that of college president, is altogether immaterial. The fact remains that the separation of the two official positions should be made.

To County Correspondents:

The fact that on one or two occasions the letters of our county correspondents were crowded out to make room for other matter which we felt compelled to use, and which occupied more space than was expected, should not justify our "assistant editors" in withholding their contributions altogether.

We certainly desire them to continue their very excellent news service, and we hope to secure correspondents at other points not yet on our list.

Let each of our readers in the county take this matter up and try to arrange for regular correspondence from every town and neighborhood.

Letters must be mailed each week so as to reach us by Thursday, at the very latest.